

**Memorandum of the Meeting
Regular Study Session/Meeting
Twenty-Sixth Town Council of Highland
Monday, March 21, 2011**

The regular study session of the Twenty-Sixth Town Council of the Town of Highland was convened at the regular place, the Highland Municipal, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana, in the plenary meeting chambers on **Monday, March 21, 2011** at the time of 7:03 o'clock p.m.

Silent Roll Call: Councilors Dan Vassar, Mark Herak, Bernie Zemen, Konnie Kuiper and Brian Novak were present. A quorum was attained. The Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Katy Dowling was present to memorialize the proceedings.

Others present: Steve Wagner, ABZA member and Vice President, USWA LU 1010, Ed Dabrowski, IT Director, Karen Ziants and Dawn Wolak of the Community Events Commission, and Rev. Dr. Laura B. Reason of the First Presbyterian Church were also present.

General Substance of Matters Discussed

1. Mr. Wagner discussed the current right-to-work legislation and its potential effect on unions and the middle class. Mr. Wagner provided a sample resolution and respectfully requested support from the Town Council.

Mr. Wagner discussed the current legislation affecting the collective bargaining rights of teachers, creation and standards of charter schools, and private school vouchers. Mr. Wagner provided a sample resolution and respectfully requested support from the Town Council.

Councilor Herak requested clarification on the various pieces of legislation referenced in the sample resolutions that were provided by Mr. Wagner.

Councilor Vassar invited Mr. Volbrecht to speak on the topics affecting teachers and schools discussed by Mr. Wagner. Mr. Volbrecht opined on the current charter school opened in Hammond, how it was started and, generally, the complicated school funding formula. Mr. Volbrecht also discussed what he perceives as a conflict between the Indiana Constitution and the charter schools legislation. Mr. Volbrecht also opined on the current collective bargaining rights of teachers.

Mr. Wagner thanked the Council for their time and departed.

2. Councilor Herak inquired about potential Community Events Commission appointments. Councilor Novak asked that the Redevelopment Director interview or vet the applicants for the Main Street Bureau Board and then request the Town Council to appoint those persons she feels are appropriate.
3. Rev. Dr. Laura Reason of the First Presbyterian Church distributed a letter voicing opposition to the Twilight Parade taking place on a Sunday, July 3rd, 2011 and requesting that it be moved to Saturday, July 2, 2011. A colloquy ensued between Rev. Reason, Councilor Herak, and Ms. Ziants as to the last instance in which the date of the parade had been moved. Councilor Vassar indicated that the last time the parade was moved was in 2005. Ms. Dowling indicated that, per Alex Brown – Parks & Recreation Superintendent, the parade had been moved in 1994 and 2005, from Sunday to Saturday evening.

Rev. Reason communicated her concerns about conducting the parade on a Sunday as it related to parking, accessibility to her facility, and the overall pragmatic effect on her congregation. She also noted that each congregant leader has their own reason(s) for being in conflict with a festival parade being held on a Sunday.

A discussion took place between and among the Councilors as to the merits and/or considerations of changing the parade date.

Karen Ziants of the Community Events Commission discussed the festival entertainment schedule and indicated that the featured entertainment is booked for the night of the parade and has already been secured for July 3rd. Ms. Ziants also communicated other considerations related to parade applications, downtown festival banners, and other various items that are have already been scheduled for July 3rd.

A discussion ensued as to how the change of the parade from July 3rd to July 2nd was handled in 2005.

Councilor Novak indicated that the parade would be moved from Sunday, July 3rd to Saturday, July 2nd.

4. Councilor Kuiper inquired as to the status of the acquisition of the “demo” fire trucks that Chief Timmer had briefed them on previously. Councilor Herak commented on the relative financial health of American LaFrance. Councilor Vassar indicated that the Fire Department members are in favor of the purchase.

With leave from Councilor Novak, Ms. Dowling updated the Council with information provided by Mr. Griffin detailing how the purchase could be accommodated and what actions would need to take place to ensure adequate funding is available to support the purchase and repayment.

A discussion took place among the members of the Council related to securing the contract and funding. Councilor Kuiper requested that the approval of the purchase be on the next Town Council agenda. Ms. Dowling indicated that she would brief Mr. Griffin, but that she is aware of a need to solicit quotes for financing of this purchase.

5. Councilor Novak brought up a request from Lamar Advertising to construct a billboard on the property that houses the Public Works Facility on Kennedy Avenue. A discussion took place between and among the Councilors as to the merits of allowing Lamar Advertising to construct a billboard in that area and the potential conflict with the Redevelopment plan and/or future development of that area if a sign is erected. The Council members requested that Councilor Novak contact Lamar Advertising and advise them that the Town is not interested in a sign at that location at this time.

There being no further business to be discussed by the Town Council, the regular study session of the Town Council, of **Monday, March 21, 2011**, was adjourned at 8:10 o'clock p.m.

Katy Dowling, IAMC
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer